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DRAFT GUIDELINES ON KEY SECTORS FOR TRADE EFFICIENCY

CUSTOMS

Document prepared by the Customs Co-operation Council

Corrigendum

- Paragraph 15, add the following sentence:

  Legislative changes may be required in some countries to permit the elimination of hard-copy Customs Declarations, etc.

- Paragraph 39, the second sentence should read as follows:

  The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) programme of the CCC should be used as a vehicle for greater co-operation between Customs authorities and commercial operators.

- Paragraph 44, last sentence: For Effective sanctions read Effective penalties

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- Paragraph 47, replace the text of Recommendation 13 by the following:

  Delays in the release of goods are caused by a number of factors including inefficiency and lack of professionalism on the part of some shipping agents, freight forwarders and customs clearing agents/brokers. To overcome this problem, governments should set standards for these professions and closely monitor performance.

- Paragraph 50, first sentence should read as follows:

  The practical application of such an arrangement is fraught with difficulty from a political as well as a data privacy viewpoint.

- After paragraph 52, introduce two new paragraphs:

  53. Foreign trade statistics are an important source of information for both the business sector and government institutions. In the vast majority of countries, foreign trade statistics are based on Customs export and import declarations. Trade data derived from Customs sources tend to be more reliable and comprehensive than those using other sources. Although Customs authorities in most countries are not responsible for the actual preparation of foreign trade statistics, they have an important contribution to make by ensuring that raw data are reliable with respect to products, partner countries, values and quantities.

  54. Recommendation 16. In countries where foreign trade statistics are based on Customs data, Customs authorities should ensure reliability of the raw data as well as the timely transfer to the institution charged with compilation of the trade statistics.

- Renumber current paragraphs 53 to 56, which become 55 to 58.

- New paragraph 55, last sentence should read as follows:

  Money wisely invested in Customs will pay handsome dividends, not only to the government in terms of increased revenues, improved controls and future cost avoidance, but also to the trading community in terms of facilitated trade.